

save for a small patch of short, black feathers just behind the bill and a few feathers in a line at the beginning of the spinal ridge. The earliest rudiments of feathers could, however, be made out as a triangular patch on the chin, a thin line along each lower jaw and as a large inverted 'V' commencing from the gullet.

The white patch on the body referred to earlier, which had the appearance of a fungal growth, has disappeared in spirit.

'GOKULAM',  
NANTENCODE,  
TRIVANDRUM.

N. G. PILLAI

[It appears more than probable that the three chicks left the nest in the natural course and that the fourth, being a weakling, was thereafter abandoned to its fate by the parents. This is not uncommon in passerine birds.—Eds.]

#### 9. SOME NOTES ON THE PLUMAGES OF *CENTROPUS SINENSIS* (STEPHENS)

Stuart Baker (Fauna Vol. 4, p. 190) describes the young of *C. s. sinensis* (Stephens)—'Distribution: Northern India, roughly from Sind and Kashmir through the North-West Provinces, Punjab and United Provinces; the sub-Himalayas as far east as Eastern Assam and south to the Ganges Valley in Bihar and Bengal'—as having the plumage barred in young birds with a great deal of variation. He also records his personal observations regarding females, but not males, breeding in such juvenile plumage. He does not refer to the young of the other two races, i.e., *C. s. intermedius* (Hume)—'Assam, south of the Brahmaputra; Cachar and Sylhet, Tippera, Chittagong, Comilla, Burma, North Malay State, Siam and the Indo-Chinese countries, Yunnan and Hainan'—and *C. s. parroti* Stres.—'Ceylon and India, south of the range of *sinensis*'—implying that they are also barred as in the nominate race.

Whistler and Kinnear in their report on the Eastern Ghats Ornithological Survey, *JBNHS*, 37: 528, drew attention to the question of juvenile plumages in the Crow Pheasant (*Centropus sinensis*). They found some young similar to the adults, while others wore a barred plumage. They thought that this might be of sub-specific significance, but stated that they did not have sufficient material to settle the point.

The Society's collection contains 7 juvenile skins which are barred on the parts mentioned against them:

- ♂ (Assam). Secondaries and upper tail coverts.
- o ? (Bihar). Wings and underparts; tail missing.
- o ? (Bihar). Wings, underparts and entire tail.
- ♀ (Bihar). Secondaries and central tail feathers.
- \* ♀ (Nepal). Most secondaries, central tail feathers and tail coverts.
- ♂ (North Shan State). All wing quills and coverts; traces on all tail feathers and underparts.
- \* ♀ (Promé Dist., Burma). Most secondaries; upper wing coverts and central tail feathers.

\* Bear traces of duskiness, see *infra*.

A specimen from Gwalior has slight traces of bars on the tips of a few of the brighter purplish feathers of the hind neck, but otherwise it agrees with *parroti*.

Mrs. Cicely Lushington in a letter to the Society in December 1945 wrote: 'The fledglings of this bird in Ceylon, contrary to what is said in text books (Waite: Birds of Ceylon, p. 218), are just like the parents, but a little duller. Mr. W. W. A. Phillips has handled a number of fledglings and says that "he has never found any barrings in the Ceylon form".'

The only unbarred juvenile available in Bombay is one from Khandala, Western Ghats, Bombay State, collected on 4 October 1935. This is a ♂ and shows very slight traces of duskiness in the upper wing coverts. The wing feathers are not yet fully grown.

As the above suggested that the young of *parroti* may differ from those of the other two races in not being barred, I wrote to the British Museum and Mrs. B. P. Hall of the Bird Room very kindly examined the material available there. She writes that in an extensive series of *parroti* from Southern India and Ceylon there are no juvenile or immature specimens with barred wings or tails while there are juveniles, or immature birds, with barred wings and tails from Karnal; Jhang, Bhimbar District, Multan, Jagadhri (Ambala Dist.) and Lucknow; also from Bengal and all countries of eastern Asia.

#### Duskiness in Upper Plumage

In the course of this examination I was struck by the marked duskiness of the wing coverts in some individuals which contrasted sharply with the chestnut of the rest of the wings. Of 11 males and 20 females of all races, this duskiness was found in 8 specimens, all females of *parroti*, from the following localities: Bombay (2), Orissa and Bastar (4), Ambala (1) and Delhi (1)—all collected between 10 November and 15 January. Females of *parroti* taken in March (1), May (2) and September (2) showed no trace of this duskiness nor did any males taken in January (1), March (2), June (1), August (1) and October (2).

Except for slight traces on two juvenile females from Nepal and Prome, there was no duskiness in any of the other races though we have females taken in November (Meerut), December (Bhagowni, Bihar and Assam), January (Thayetmyo, Burma), February (Jagadhri, Ambala District, Punjab) and March (Bahawalpur, and Prome, Burma).

We have referred to the females from Delhi and Ambala as *parroti* while one collected by Basil Edwards in Delhi was named *sinensis* by Whistler (*JBNHS*, 31: 569).

Mrs. Hall has also referred to 8 adults from Delhi in the British Museum as *sinensis*. From Jagadhri, Ambala District, Punjab, we have in Bombay a female which is definitely *sinensis* while another dusky individual referred to above from the same district appears to be *parroti*. It would therefore appear that the distribution of the two races *sinensis* and *parroti* around Delhi and northward into the Punjab along the Jumna Valley has to be worked out afresh—there is either a mixed population with overlapping characters or both forms occur (?).

## Summary

From the evidence available, it appears:

(1) that the juveniles of *C. s. sinensis* and *C. s. intermedius* are barred, while those of *C. s. parroti* are not.

(2) that the females of *parroti* acquire a marked sootiness on their wing coverts between about November and January.

(3) that there is either a mixed population or two forms overlap in the Punjab and northwards along the Jumna Valley.

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BOMBAY-3,  
September 26, 1956.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

### 10. THE OCCURRENCE OF THE PINKBREASTED PARAKEET (*PSITTACULA ALEXANDRI*) IN DEHRA DUN

On 14 November 1955, Mr. Gurdial Singh of the Doon School and myself, while sitting under a Toon tree in the school grounds, saw a party of these attractive parakeets fly into the tree, and we were able to watch them through field glasses on and off throughout the afternoon as they moved about in the branches overhead, feeding in clumps of loranthus parasitising on the toon branches. While feeding they were very quiet and their presence in the tree was only felt by the continual rain of leaves and other matter they dropped down while feeding or when attention was attracted by the whirr of wings as a bird flew from one branch to another. The flock consisted of over a dozen birds of both sexes, and when they flew from one tree to another they did so in a compact wheeling mass uttering loud and very distinct trumpeting calls quite unlike those of the Slatyheaded or the Alexandrine parakeet, both of which were around in fair numbers. The pink breast in the males is a very conspicuous feature as is also the rather short tail. Mr. George of the F.R.I. who is a knowledgable bird student of Dehra Dun informs me that this bird has never been mentioned before from the Dun.

RAJKUMAR COLLEGE,  
RAJKOT,  
SAURASHTRA.

K. S. LAVKUMAR

[The western limit of distribution given in the Fauna is 'Kumaon' without any specific locality.—Eds.]

### 11. EXPERIENCES WITH LITTLE RINGED-PLOVER

(With a plate)

The Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*), is not a rare bird in Kashmir. Anyone looking for its nest may with perseverance and a little luck soon find it. It is not an excessively shy bird and seldom looks with great disfavour upon a photographer's hide, and yet my